

#### What is a Nature Journal?

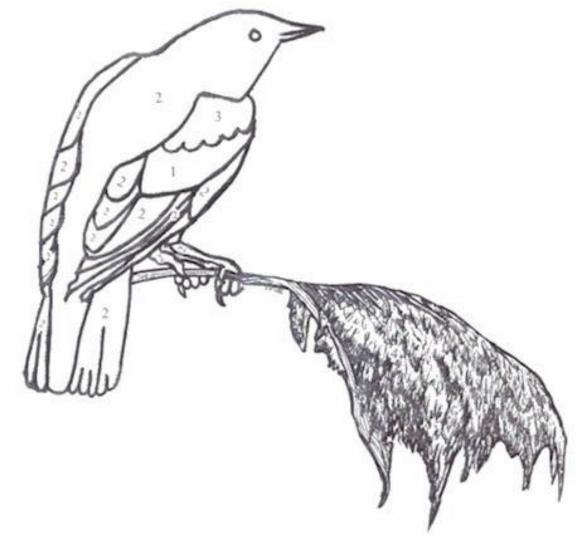
A nature journal is your own personal field guide. A field guide is a book with pictures of animals and plants and information about them. People who like to see animals and how they live use field guides to help them know the animals they see. Your field guide will be special because you will make it into your own nature journal.

In this booklet you will find pictures of animals and plants that you can find in the Meadowlands. You can color the pictures. Then, when you see real animals in DeKorte Park and other places nearby, you can check your nature journal to see what the animal's name is.

You can go to the library to find books and stories about these animals. Add what you learn about how these animals live to your journal. You can also add to your journal by drawing pictures of what you see when you visit the Meadowlands. There is a page at the end of this booklet that you can copy for writing about and drawing pictures of what you see.

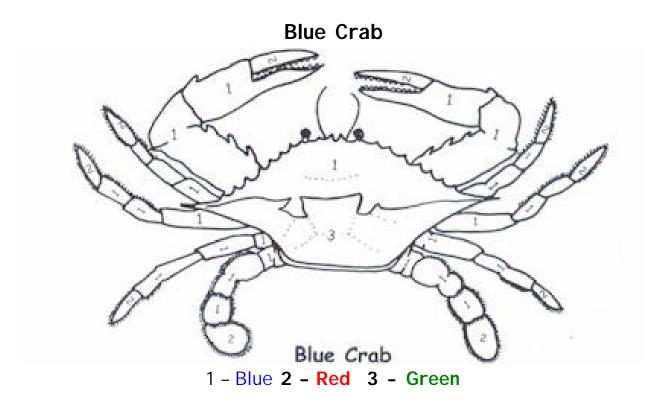
Nobody will have a nature journal just like yours.

## **Redwinged Blackbird**



1- Red 2 - Black 3 - Yellow 4 - Brown

This wetlands bird can be seen from early spring through the late fall, but may stay on through winter if the weather is mild.



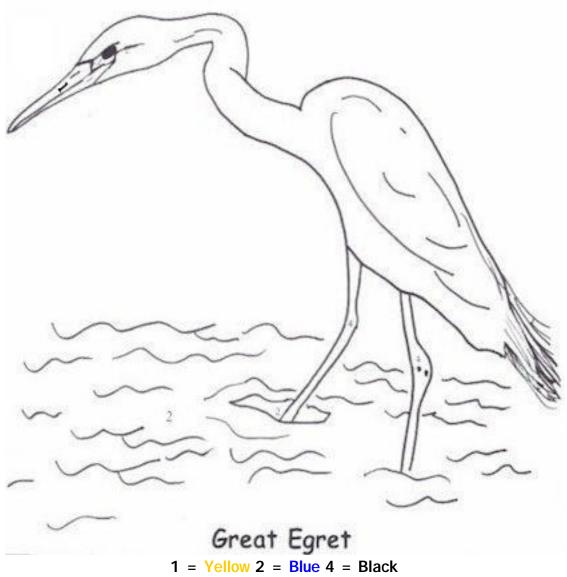
The blue crab lives here all year long, hibernates during the coldest months and is active during the warmer months.

# Ruddy duck



The ruddy duck is present all year; larger numbers winter here as long as the impoundment is ice-free; a few are summer breeders.

## **Great Egret**



The great egret arrives in the Meaowlands around March and stays through late October.

#### American Goldfinch

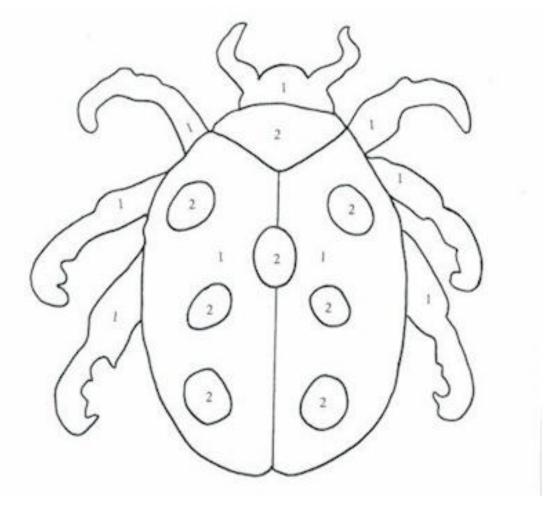


1 = Yellow 2 = Purple 3 = Black 4 = Green 5 = Brown

The American goldfinch is an upland bird that nests on Kingsland Overlook and the Lyndhurst Nature Reserve at Richard W. DeKorte Park. You can see the goldfinch here year-round.

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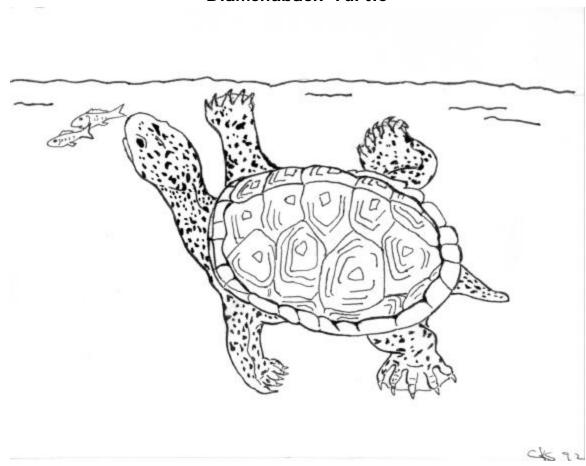
## Lady Bug



1 = Red 2 = Black

Lady bugs appear in the Meadowlands in spring and summer only.

#### Diamondback Turtle



Look on the front cover to see the colors you should use.



# My Nature Journal

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Time	
Who was with me	
The place I visited	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Snow Hot
Plants I Saw	
Animals I Saw  Draw a picture, write a story or poem about what you saw!	

#### My Nature Journal

# James E. McGreevey Governor

Chairman: Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner, N.J. Department of Community Affairs

#### Commissioners

James A. Anzevino
Michael J. Gonnelli
Leonard R. Kaiser
Mia M. Macri
Eleanore S. Nissley
Harry K. Parsons

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Featuring
Color by the Number Native Species

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